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PLAYDEBT. *n. f.* [play and debt.] Debt contracted by gaming. There are multitudes of leases upon single lives, and *playdebt* upon joint lives. She has several *playdebt*s on her hand, which must be discharged very suddenly. *Spectator*, N° 295.

PLAYER. *n. f.* [from play.]
1. One who plays.
2. An idler; a lazy person.

You're pictures out of doors,
Saints in your injuries, devils being offended,
Players in your housewifery. *Shakespeare's Othello.*

3. Actor of dramatick scenes.
Like *players* plac'd to fill a filthy stage,
Where change of thoughts one fool to other shews,
And all but jests, serve only sorrow's rage. *Sidney.*
Certain pantomimi will represent the voices of *players* of interludes so to life, as you would think they were those *players* themselves. *Bacon's Natural History.*

A *player*, if left of his auditory and their applause, would straight be out of heart. *Bacon.*

Thine be the laurel then, support the stage;
Which do declines, that shortly we may see
Players and plays reduc'd to second infancy.
His muse had starv'd, had not a piece unread, *Dryden.*
And by a *player* bought, supply'd her bread. *Dryden.*

4. A mimic.
Thus said the *player* god; and adding art
Of voice and gesture, to perform'd his part,
She thought, so like her love the shade appears,
That Ceyx spake the words. *Dryden.*

5. One who touches a musical instrument.
Command thy servants to seek out a man, who is a cunning *player* on the harp. *Samuel xvi. 16.*
6. A gamester.

7. One who acts in play in any certain manner.
The snake bit him fast by the tongue, which therewith began to rankle and swell, that, by the time he had knocked this *player* on the head, his mouth was scarce able to contain it. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*

PLAYFELLOW. *n. f.* [play and fellow.] Companion in amusement.

Inconstant in his choice of his friends, or rather never having a friend but *playfellows*, of whom, when he was weary, he could no otherwise rid himself than by killing them. *Sidn.*
She seem'd still back unto the land to look,
And her *playfellow* aid to call, and fear

The dashing of the waves. *Spenser.*
Your precious self had not then cross'd the eyes
Of my young *playfellow*. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*

Mitcheance and sorrow go along with you!
Heart's discontent and four affliction
Be *playfellows* to keep you company! *Shakespeare.*

Sweet *playfellows*, pray thou for us,
And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius. *Shakespeare.*

This was the play at which Nero staked three thousand two hundred and twenty-nine pounds three shillings and four pence upon every cast; where did he find *playfellows*? *Arbuthnot on Coins.*

PLAYFUL. *adj.* [play and full.] Sportive; full of levity.

He is scandalized at youth for being lively, and at childhood for being *playful*. *Addison's Spectator*, N° 494.

PLAYGAME. *n. f.* [play and game.] Play of children.

That liberty alone gives the true relish to their ordinary *playgames*. *Locke.*

PLAYHOUSE. *n. f.* [play and house.] House where dramatick performances are represented.

These are the youths that thunder at a *playhouse*, and fight for bitten apples. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

He hurries me from the *playhouse* and scenes there, to the bear-garden. *Stillingfleet.*

I am a sufficient theatre to myself of ridiculous actions, without expecting company either in a court or *playhouse*. *Dry.*

Shakespeare, whom you and every *playhouse* bill stile the divine. *Pope's Epistles to Horace.*

PLAYPLEASURE. *n. f.* [play and pleasure.] Idle amusement.

He taketh a kind of *playpleasure* in looking upon the fortunes of others. *Bacon's Essays.*

PLAYSOME. *adj.* [play and some.] Wanton; full of levity.

PLAYSOMENESS. *n. f.* [from playsome.] Wantonness; levity.

PLAYTHING. *n. f.* [play and thing.] Toy; thing to play with.

O Castilio! thou hast caught
My foolish heart; and like a tender child,
That trusts his *plaything* to another hand,
I fear its harm, and fain would have it back. *Otway.*

A child knows his nurse, and by degrees the *playthings* of a little more advanced age. *Locke.*

The servants should be hindered from making court to them, by giving them fruit and *playthings*. *Locke.*

O Richard,
Would fortune calm her present rage,
And give us *playthings* for our age. *Prior.*

PLE

Allow him but the *plaything* of a pen,
He ne'er rebels or plots. *Pope.*

PLAYWRIGHT. *n. f.* [play and wright.] A maker of plays. He ended much in the character he had liv'd in; and Horace's rule for a play may as well be applied to him as a *playwright*. *Pope.*

PLEA. *n. f.* [plaid, old French.]

1. The act or form of pleading.

2. Thing offered or demanded in pleading.

The magnificoes have all persuaded with him;
But none can drive him from the envious *plea*
Of forfeiture of justice and his bond. *Shakespeare.*

3. Allegation.

They tow'rds the throne supreme,
Accountable, made haste, to make appear
With righteous *plea*, their utmost vigilance. *Milton.*

4. An apology; an excuse.

The fiend, with necessity,
The tyrant's *plea*, excus'd his devilish deeds. *Milton.*
Thou determin'd weakn'ss for no *plea*. *Milton.*

When such occasions are,
No *plea* must serve; 'tis cruelty to spare. *Donham.*

Whoever argues in defence of absolute power in a single person, though he offers the old plausible *plea*, that, it is his opinion, which he cannot help, unless he be convinced, ought to be treated as the common enemy of mankind. *Swift.*

TO PLEACH. *v. a.* [pleaser, Fr.] To bend; to interweave. A word not in use.

Would'st thou be window'd in great Rome, and see
Thy master thus, with *pleach* arms, bending down
His corrigible neck. *Shakespeare.*

Steal into the *pleached* bower,
Where honey-suckles ripen'd by the sun,
Forbid the sun to enter. *Shakespeare.*

TO PLEAD. *v. n.* [plaid, Fr.]

1. To argue before a court of justice.

To his accusations
He *pleaded* still not guilty; and alleg'd
Many sharp reasons. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man *pleadeth* for his neighbour! *Job. xvi. 21.*

Of beauty fine;
Let others govern or defend the state,
Plead at the bar, or manage a debate. *Granville.*

Lawyers and divines write down short notes, in order to *pleach* or *plead*. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

2. To speak in an argumentative or persuasive way for or against; to reason with another.

I am
To *plead* for that, which I would not obtain. *Shakespeare.*

Who is he that will *plead* with me; for now if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost. *Job. xiii. 19.*

If nature *plead* not in a parent's heart,
Pity my tears, and pity her desert. *Dryden.*

It must be no ordinary way of reasoning, in a man that is *pleading* for the natural power of kings, and against all compact, to bring for proof an example, where his own account founds all the right upon compact. *Locke.*

3. To be offered as a plea.

Since you can love, and yet your error see,
The same restless power may *plead* for me,
With no less ardour I my claim pursue;
I love, and cannot yield her even to you. *Dryden.*

TO PLEAD. *v. a.*

1. To defend; to discuss.

Will you, we shew our title to the crown?
If not, our swords shall *plead* it in the field. *Shakespeare.*

2. To allege in pleading or argument.

Don Sebastian came forth to intreat, that they might part with their arms like soldiers; it was told him, that they could not justly *plead* law of nations, for that they were not lawful enemies. *Spenser on Ireland.*

If they will *plead* against me my reproach, know that God hath overthrown me. *Job. xix. 5.*

3. To offer as an excuse.

I will neither *plead* my age nor sickness, in excuse of faults. *Dryden.*

PLEADABLE. *adj.* [from plead.] Capable to be alleged in plea.

I ought to be discharged from this information, because this privilege is *pleadable* at law. *Dryden.*

PLEADER. *n. f.* [plaid, Fr. from plead.]

1. One who argues in a court of justice.

The brief with weighty crimes was charg'd,
On which the *pleader* much enlarg'd. *Swift's Miscel.*

2. One who speaks for or against.

If you
Would be your country's *pleaders*, your good tongue
Might stop our countryman. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*

So fair a *pleader* any cause may gain. *Dryden.*

PLE

PLEADING. *n. f.* [from plead.] Act or form of pleading.

If the heavenly folk should know
These *pleadings* in the court below. *Swift's Miscel.*

PLEASANCE. *n. f.* [plaisance, Fr.] Gaiety; pleasantry; merriment.

The lovely *pleasance* and the lofty pride
Cannot express'd be by any art. *Spenser.*

Her words the drowned with laughing vain,
And wanting grace in ut'ring of the flame,
That turned all her *pleasance* to a scoffing game. *F. Queen.*

Oh that men should put an enemy into their mouths, to steal away their brains! that we should with joy, *pleasance*, revel and applause transform ourselves into beasts. *Shakespeare.*

PLEASANT. *adj.* [plaisant, French.]

1. Delightful; giving delight.

The gods are just, and of our *pleasant* vices
Make instruments to scourge us. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*

What most he should dislike, seems *pleasant* to him;
What like, offensive. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*

How good and how *pleasant* it is for brethren to dwell in unity! *Psalms.*

Verdure clad
Her universal face with *pleasant* green. *Milton.*

2. Grateful to the senses.

Sweeter thy discourse is to my ear,
Than fruits of palm-tree *pleasant* to thy thirst. *Milton.*

3. Good humoured; cheerful.

In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,
Thou'rt such a touchy, teasy, *pleasant* fellow. *Addison.*

4. Gay; lively; merry.

Let neither the power nor quality of the great, or the wit of the *pleasant* prevail with us to flatter the vices, or applaud the prophaneities of wicked men. *Rogers's Sermons.*

5. Trifling; adapted rather to mirth than use.

They, who would prove their idea of infinite to be positive, seem to do it by a *pleasant* argument, taken from the negation of an end, which being negative, the negation of it is positive. *Locke.*

PLEASANTLY. *adv.* [from pleasant.]

1. In such a manner as to give delight.

2. Gayly; merrily; in good humour.

King James was wont *pleasantly* to say, that the duke of Buckingham had given him a secretary, who could neither write nor read. *Clarendon.*

3. Lightly; ludicrously.

Eulathius is of opinion, that Ulysses speaks *pleasantly* to Elpenor. *Broom.*

PLEASANTNESS. *n. f.* [from pleasant.]

1. Delightfulness; state of being pleasant.

Doth not the *pleasantness* of this place carry in itself sufficient reward. *Sidney.*

2. Gaiety; cheerfulness; merriment.

It was refreshing, but composed, like the *pleasantness* of youth tempered with the gravity of age.

He would fain put on some *pleasantness*, but was not able to conceal his vexation. *Tillotson.*

PLEASANTRY. *n. f.* [plaisanterie, Fr.]

1. Gaiety; merriment.

The harshness of reasoning is not a little softened and smoothed by the insinuations of mirth and *pleasantry*. *Addison.*

Such kinds of *pleasantry* are dissingenuous in criticism, the greatest masters appear serious and instructive. *Addison.*

2. Sprightly saying; lively talk.

The grave abound in *pleasantries*, the dull in repartees and points of wit. *Addison's Spectator*, N° 487.

TO PLEASE. *v. a.* [placere, Lat. plaire, Fr.]

1. To delight; to gratify; to humour.

They *please* themselves in the children of strangers. *Isai. 6.*
Whether it were a whistling wind, or a *pleasing* fall of water running violently. *Wisdom. xvii. 18.*

Thou canst not be so *pleas'd* at liberty,
As I shall be to find thou dar'st be free. *Dryden.*

Leave such to trifle with more grace and ease,
Whom folly *pleases*, and whose follies *please*. *Pope.*

2. To satisfy; to content.

Doctor Pinch
Establish him in his true sense again,
And I will *please* you what you will demand. *Shakespeare.*

What next I bring shall *please*
Thy wish exactly to thy heart's desire. *Milton.*

3. To obtain favour from; to be pleased with, is to approve; to favour.

This is my beloved son, in whom I am well *pleased*. *Mat.*
I have seen thy face, and thou wast *pleased* with me. *Gen.*

Fickle favours: who can *please* him long?
Most favours: to like. A word of ceremony. *Milton.*

4. To be PLEASED. To like. A word of ceremony.
Many of our most skilful painters were *pleased* to recommend this author to me, as one who perfectly understood the rules of painting. *Dryden's Dunciad.*

TO PLEASE. *v. n.*

1. To give pleasure.

What *pleasing* seem'd, for her now *pleases* more. *Milton.*

PLE

I found something that was more *pleasing* in them, than my ordinary productions. *Dryden.*

2. To gain approbation.

Their wine-offerings shall not be *pleasing* unto him. *Hosea.*

3. To like; to chuse.

Spirits, freed from mortal laws, with ease
Assume what sexes and what shapes they *please*. *Pope.*

4. To condescend; to comply. A word of ceremony.

Please you, lords,
In sight of both our battles we may meet. *Shakespeare.*

The first words that I learnt were, to express my desire, that he would *please* to give me my liberty. *Galliver.*

PLEASER. *n. f.* [from please.] One that courts favour.

PLEASINGLY. *adv.* [from pleasing.] In such a manner as to give delight.

Pleasingly troublesome thought and remembrance have been to me since I left you. *Suckling.*

Thus to herself she *pleasingly* began. *Milton.*

The end of the art is *pleasingly* to deceive the eye. *Dryden.*

He gains all points, who *pleasingly* confounds;
Surprises, varies, and conceals the bounds. *Pope.*

PLEASINGNESS. *n. f.* [from pleasing.] Quality of giving delight.

PLEASEMAN. *n. f.* [please and man.] A pickthank; an officious fellow.

Some carry tale, some *pleasemen*, some slight zany,
That knows the trick to make my lady laugh,
Told our intents. *Shakespeare's Love's Labour Lost.*

PLEASURABLE. *adj.* [from please.] Delightful; full of pleasure.

Planting of orchards is very profitable, as well as *pleasurable*. *Bacon.*

It affords a *pleasurable* habitation in every part, and that is the line eclipsick. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

There are, that the compounded fluid drain
From different mixtures: so the blended streams,
Each mutually correcting each, create
A *pleasurable* medley. *Philips.*

Our ill-judging thought
Hardly enjoys the *pleasurable* taste. *Prior.*

PLEASURE. *n. f.* [plaisir, French.]

1. Delight; gratification of the mind or senses.

Pleasure, in general, is the consequent apprehension of a suitable object, suitably applied to a rightly disposed faculty. *South's Sermons.*

A cause of men's taking *pleasure* in the sins of others, is, that poor spiritiveness that accompanies guilt. *South's Sermons.*

In hollow caves sweet echo quiet lies;
Her name with *pleasure* once the taught the shore,
Now Daphne's dead, and *pleasure* is no more. *Pope.*

2. Loose gratification.

Convey your *pleasures* in a spacious plenty,
And yet seem cold. *Shakespeare.*

Behold yon dame does shake the head to hear of *pleasure's* name. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*

Not funk in carnal *pleasure*. *Milton.*

3. Approbation.

The Lord taketh *pleasure* in them that fear him. *Psalms.*

4. What the will dictates.

Use your *pleasure*; if your love do not persuade you to come, let not my letter. *Shakespeare's Merch. of Venice.*

He will do his *pleasure* on Babylon. *Isai. xlviii.*

5. Choice; arbitrary will.

We ascribe not only effects depending on the natural period of time unto arbitrary calculations, and such as vary at *pleasure*, but confirm our tenets by the uncertain account of others. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*, b. iv.

Half their fleet offends
His open side, and high above him shews;
Upon the rest at *pleasure* he descends,
And doubly harm'd, he double harm bestows. *Dryden.*

Raile tempests at your *pleasure*. *Dryden.*

We can at *pleasure* move several parts of our bodies. *Locke.*

All the land in their dominions being acquired by conquest, was disposed by them according to their *pleasure*. *Arbuthnot.*

TO PLEASE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To please; to gratify. This word, though supported by good authority, is, I think, inelegant.

Things, thus set in order,
Shall further by harvest, and *pleasure* thee best. *Tupper.*

I count it one of my greatest afflictions, that I cannot *please* such an honourable gentleman. *Shakespeare.*

If what pleases him, shall *please* you,
Fight closer, or good faith you'll catch a blow. *Shakespeare.*

When the way of *pleasuring* and displeasuring lieth by the favourite, it is impossible any should be overgreat. *Bacon.*</